

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01

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SUBJECT: PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CONFERENCE ON
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TCDC),
JAN 10-14, 1977

SUMMARY: PREPCOM OFF TO A SLOW START WITH ONLY A BRIEF AFTER-NOON SESSION ON THE FIRST DAY DEVOTED TO A STATEMENT BY THE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR. MORSE SPOKE GLOWINGLY OF THE IMPORT OF TCDC AND ITS VITAL ROLE IN THE REALIZATION OF THE NIEO. HE ENDORSED WHOLEHEARTEDLY THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE BUDGET, WHICH HE SAID SHOULD NOT BE THE OBJECT OF PREPCOM ATTENTION, AS WELL AS THE ELABORATE INFORMATION SUPPORT PROGRAM. CUBAN TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN ALARCON DEFERRED ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO PERMIT FURTHER BACKROOM MANEUVERING. THE LEGAL STATUS OF COMMITTEE AND ITS REPORTING CHANNEL HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE UN LEGAL OFFICE FOR A DECISION. END SUMMARY.

1. TCDC PREPCOM POSTPONED INITIAL MEETING UNTIL 4:08 P.M.
JANUARY 10. CUBAN PRESIDENT OF UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL FOR 1976 (ALARCON) TOOK CHAIR AND MENTIONED NIEO IN FIRST MINUTE OF OPENING REMARKS. DELAY IN CONVENING MEETING CAUSED BY LACK OF AGREEMENT ON BUREAU COMPOSITION PROMPTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALARCON TO POSTPONE ELECTION OF OFFICERS (BUREAU) UNTIL TUESDAY SESSION.

2. BRIEF MEETING (44 MINUTES) TAKEN UP WITH EFFUSIVE STATEMENT BY UNDP ADMINISTRATOR BRADFORD MORSE (POUCHED ATTENTION CHESTER NORRIS, IO/DHP). HAVING ESTABLISHED TCDC AS A MUCH-NEEDED DEPARTURE FROM TRADITIONAL ORIENTA-

TION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MORSE EMPHASIZED THE VALUE OF "ALL STATES" PARTICIPATION IN PREPCOM AND CONFERENCE, underscored collective strength and mutual self-reliance as important features of TCDC and praised the findings of the Linowitz study on Latin America. He asserted that all countries have a vital stake in NIEO which must reinforce South-South interdependence, as opposed to traditional North-North and North-South movements of technical assistance.

3. ON THE MORE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK, MORSE URGED THE DELEGATES NOT TO CONCENTRATE THEIR ATTENTION ON THE ELEMENTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING COSTS. HE LABELED THE BUDGETARY ESTIMATES AS THE MINIMUM AMOUNT REQUIRED AND DECLARED HE SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED BY A NIGGARDLY BUDGET. MOREOVER, THE PREPCOM IS OBLIGATED TO REPORT ITS BUDGET ESTIMATES TO ACABQ BY FEBRUARY--PRESUMABLY MEANING IT SHOULDN'T WASTE TIME SECOND-GUESSING THE SECRETARIAT.

4. HAVING COME DOWN HARD ON THE VALIDITY OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET, MORSE ENDORSED WITH EQUAL FERVOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A \$403,400 INFORMATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM.

5. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, THE FRENCH DELEGATE (ROUGET) RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE COMMITTEE, POINTING OUT THAT THE UNGA RESOLUTION MERELY RECOMMENDED THAT THE TCDC SESSIONAL COMMITTEE BE DESIGNATED OFFICIAL USE

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NATED THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE BUT DID NOT EFFECT SUCH A CHANGE. MORE TO THE POINT IS THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES DEBATE AS TO WHETHER THE PREPCOM SHOULD REPORT TO ECOSOC (VIA THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL) AS WOULD BE EXPECTED OR DIRECTLY TO THE UNGA AS URGED BY ARGENTINA AMONG OTHERS.

6. COMMENT: FIRST SESSION OF PREPCOM UNUSUALLY WELL ATTENDED LEADING US TO THE CONCLUSION THAT LDC'S IN PARTICULAR ARE TAKING THIS MEETING AND TCDC CONFERENCE QUITE SERIOUSLY. INDICATIONS ARE THAT CURRENT CONTEST OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FOCUSES UPON CANDIDACIES OF YUGOSLAVIA AND ARGENTINA. (DIALLO OF UPPER VOLTA MAY BE OUT OF THE RUNNING OWING TO POLITICAL PRESSURES WITHIN HIS COUNTRY.) THE DEGREE TO WHICH MORSE MAY HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY CHILDERS IN REGARD TO THE INFORMATION PROGRAM AND A CABAL COMPOSED OF FLEMING (ARGENTINA) AND ALBERTAL OF THE UNDP SPECIAL UNIT FOR TCDC BEARS CLOSE WATCHING.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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